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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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6-23-1969

From/To: Fred Goff (Chalk's reply filed first)

Fred Goff

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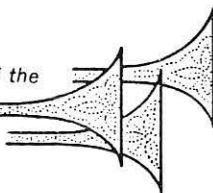
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**HERALD OF TRUTH**

*Radio and Television Programs*

June 23, 1969

Mr. Fred Goff  
Del Campo  
Delta Steamship Lines  
P. O. Box 50250  
New Orleans, La.

Dear Fred:

I hope this letter reaches you upon your return to port. I have thoroughly enjoyed your reports from various ports on this mercy trip of yours.

I have just returned from West Africa myself. I spent 14 days in Liberia, in the city of Monrovia especially, preaching in a special evangelistic campaign. While in Liberia I had opportunity to sense firsthand the deep concern regarding the Nigerian situation.

I know you must experience great personal fulfillment in seeing these badly needed foodstuffs delivered to Biafra. Thank you so much for sending me such inspiring and interesting letters along the way. May God continue to bless and use your life to the alleviation of human suffering.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk  
Radio Evangelist

JAC:hm



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Sao Tome  
Sao Tome Island, West Africa  
11 June 1969

Dear Bro. Chalk,

The DEL CAMPO has been at anchor for the past eight days off the coast of this small island. The small harbor at Sao Tome offers no dock or port facilities for deep draft, ocean going vessels, which has required us to discharge our 2300 tons of relief supplies from this anchorage some one and a half miles off shore. All of our cargo is food-stuffs consigned to Biafra. It is packaged in fifty and one hundred pound bags and must be discharged into lighters, or barges brought alongside the ship. This is a slow operation, made so by the fact that there is a constant stiff breeze from the south and a heavy surf running all the time. The barges are never stationary. However, the stevedores from the island are familiar with no other conditions and perform their work under the equatorial sun in a most satisfactory manner. (Their pay is about \$1.00 a day; 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.) Once the barges are loaded they are towed ashore and discharged, then brought back to be re-loaded.

The bulk of the products being delivered is labeled a 'Blended Food', which is a combination of Soya meal, Corn meal and powdered milk. I imagine all that is necessary is to add water and boil it before consumption. Today I took a launch and went to the island and watched the operation on the beach. As near as I can count each bag is handled at least nine times from the moment it is picked up in the hold of the ship until it is stacked on the bed of the truck taking it to the airport. There is no accumulation of the food on the beach as there is on the docks at Apapa in Nigeria.

I found the airport to be small by our standards but very busy. There are no flights during the day and a loading operation is continuous. Many types of large planes line the single, black-topped runway, all of them carrying the marking "UNITEDCHURCH AID - U.S.A." .

Near sundown, at about 30 minute intervals, they begin their flights. We watch them rise from the runway near the edge of the water, come out almost directly at us, then bank around, swinging outside of the two rocky peaks offshore called the Ihlas das Cabras (Isle of Cobras) then set their course a little to the east of north and make for their destination in Biafra. I understand the planes carry an average of 14 tons per trip.

The island of Sao Tome (St. Thomas) is 125 miles off the coast of Gabon and the town of Sao Tome only twenty miles north of the equator. The city is very clean~~er~~, neat and orderly. I am impressed with the beauty of their public parks and plazas where the landscaping is beautiful. Most of the residences are of masonry and are painted in soft pastels - green, blue, pink, yellow, etc. They are low and give themselves the impression of being spacious and airy. I find it an altogether friendly and delightful place.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Fred V. Goff